

## **County growth and development funding without voter approval**

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HB 552 by Sadler/Ratliff

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- DIGEST:** Under current law, a county commissioner's court, with voter approval, may appropriate up to 5 cents per \$100 of property tax value from the county's general fund to advertise and promote growth and development of the county. HB 552 would have removed the requirement for voter approval.
- GOVERNOR'S REASON FOR VETO:** "This bill would delete the requirement for an election. The creation of this board and the dedication of a portion of tax revenue are significant issues that should require a popular vote. If the voters do not approve of the action, counties have other avenues available to pursue economic development projects."
- RESPONSE:** Rep. Paul Sadler, author of HB 552, said the bill would have clarified a conflict in the Local Government Code. "The section I wanted to amend requires an election, but another section allows commissioners courts to use money for economic development without mandating such a vote," said Rep. Sadler.
- NOTES:** HB 552 passed the House on the Consent Calendar and was not analyzed in a *Daily Floor Report*.